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### New Zinoviev Letter?

Those of us who concern ourselves with the study of various facets of Soviet life and are lumped together under the nickname of "Kremlinologists," apparently agree that the late Col. Penkovsky rendered the western world incalculable service.

His knowledge of the military preparedness of the Soviet Union and his revelations of the state of this preparedness to the intelligence services of both this country and Great Britain were made public, except, of course, the details of his reporting which are hidden deep within the walls of these agencies and rightly so. Col. Penkovsky paid the supreme price for his ostensibly unselfish service to the causes of democratic principles we, in the west, stand for.

What has been perturbing this writer, is the fact that there is rather a divergence of opinion among the specialists of Soviet affairs, as evidenced by the many newspaper reports on the question of the authenticity of *The Penkovsky Papers*. To all of us who are old enough to remember the early days of the Soviet State, to me in particular, it seems clear, that these papers are nothing more than a second volume of the notorious "Zinoviev letter" of the early 1920s.

This letter proved to be the right spark at the right time to arouse public opinion which became phlegmatic and not lethargic to the existence

of the Soviet State. To remind the reader, this "Zinoviev letter" was forged by a White Russian emigre, with the idea of exposing the machinations of Communists and their Comintern (Communist International), headed then by Zinoviev, and of arousing public indignation against the Soviet Union, with possible repercussions which could lead to the collapse of the Soviet State. The effect of this "Zinoviev letter" on the gullible public was tremendous, but it led to rather unexpected results, such as the collapse of the British Labor Government headed by James Ramsay MacDonald.

There is a certain similarity in the crudeness of the language, form, and aim of these two documents, which lead this writer to doubt the authenticity of *The Penkovsky Papers*. There are perhaps several casual Penkovsky remarks of very limited significance, which apparently were made by him, included in these papers (in fact nothing new was said, including the statements on the loose morality among the higher echelons of the Soviet military hierarchy long known to us in the West). These remarks are surely only an insignificant part of the book.

VICTOR P. PETROV,  
Professor, Shippensburg State  
College, Pa.  
Alexandria.

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